

James Rabe (00:00):

The city of Rochester parks and rec announced that, Hey, we are going to be closing the pools temporarily because there's just been too much going on that's just not safe. So we got ahold of parks and rec director, Paul Widman. Welcome to the show.

Paul Widman (00:15):

Hey, thank you. Thanks for having me.

James Rabe (00:18):

I think I'd like to sum it up with one question. What the flaming hooty hoo is happening there, man?

Paul Widman (00:24):

Right. Well, uh, top three reasons we close the pool are safety, safety, and safety. There are just so many things that were distracting the lifeguards from doing their job of just of maintaining safety in the water, so much going on in and around the pools that, uh, you know, could have led to something distracting from somebody that really needed some help or a young child that needed help. And, uh, so we, we decided we needed to take a breather and take a look at this again. And, uh, uh, we've, we've had some meetings today. We have some more meetings this afternoon. We hope to get it, get back on track, get them open soon.

Andy Brownell (01:11):

And the last thing you need is a tragedy at this swimming pool this summer, because the staff is overwhelmed, having more staff, perhaps. Yeah.

Paul Widman (01:21):

So we've, we, uh, a lot of people don't know this, but we, we operate the pools through a partnership with the Rochester swim club. Uh, I'd like to take credit for that decision, but it was a lot of, a lot of people, uh, weighed in and, uh, park board, one of the best decisions we made, uh, you know, that's the organization. We would be going to, to train our lifeguards if we were to hire them. So to have them on board, uh, just has brought, uh, you know, it just really increased the, uh, attention and attention to detail that we have at the pools. Uh, so anyway, to get to the question, um, uh, they had, uh, gone from what we normally had pre COVID was four to five lifeguards on duty to nine. Uh, so that was one of the things that was implemented. And then we are looking at maybe providing some support, some, uh, you know, uh, people to help monitor outside the pool and, and on the deck. So yeah, we'll be looking at that.

James Rabe (02:23):

Is there, is there a, a chance that some people really just don't know how to act at the pool?

Paul Widman (02:30):

Well, there's a lot of things that we're thinking. One is, there's just a lot of pent up energy right now because we're coming out of COVID and, and it is a very unique and strange time for all of us. I know in my own household, you know, that, uh, I, you know, we're, we're all adjusting to that. And so we're thinking that that factoring in quite a bit. We, we do have some behavior issues going on. We don't know really what the source is, but, um, working to, to manage that as best as we can. And, uh,

James Rabe ([03:14](#)):

Actually, we have to get cruising fast because we got some stuff we're up against one last quick question. Do you have a target date for reopening the pools?

Paul Widman ([03:22](#)):

I, I can't give you a firm date, but we've just w once we get resources identified and in place, we'll, we'll be open. Uh, the good thing is silver Lake is ready to roll. And so we'll have that extra room and extra pool to absorb some of the demands.

Andy Brownell ([03:41](#)):

All right. Well, thank you, Paul, and good luck with the mission, and hopefully we can get a news release from your folks soon er than and announce the pools are are reopening.

Paul Widman ([03:50](#)):

We will post it on our website on a social media. So stay tuned. Hopefully it won't be long.